

# INTERCOLLEGIATE ROWING ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

## FOREWORD

In order that the reader may better understand the relationship between the IRA Bylaws and the NCAA Regulations, this background material is offered for consideration.

The IRA and the NCAA are both athletic associations whose members are collegiate institutions. They are separate and distinct organizations, each with its own Constitution, Bylaws and operating procedures. However, the IRA, as an Association, is allied philosophically with the NCAA as its individual members are also active members of the NCAA.

Although the IRA and the NCAA are separate organizations, they have similar purposes. As a result, the rules of eligibility enacted by both organizations are essentially the same.

IRA eligibility rules are all essentially contained in these Bylaws. The rules and regulations of the NCAA constitute a base for IRA eligibility requirements. There may be some instances, however, when an eligibility rule adopted by the IRA will be different from that of the NCAA. Wherever IRA eligibility rules and regulations are exactly the same as those of the NCAA, they have been included in these Bylaws by reference only, under Article Three of the Bylaws, and are not reprinted herein. However, any IRA eligibility rule which is different from that of the NCAA has been compiled in a separate document, as an addendum to these Bylaws, and referred to as "IRA Eligibility Regulations."

The IRA assumes no responsibility for the mistaken violation of any NCAA regulation by any member who relies solely on this manual for the discharge of its responsibilities as an NCAA member. However, the office of the IRA Commissioner will, as always, be ready and willing to lend whatever help it can to members in need of assistance.

## **Article One**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of these Bylaws shall be to regulate intercollegiate competition as engaged in by the designated rowing teams of the Intercollegiate Rowing Association (IRA or the Association as the context dictates) member institutions and by the representatives of those institutions in such a manner as to preserve the amateur spirit of that competition as defined in the Constitution of the IRA.

## **Article Two**

### **SCOPE**

The scope of these Bylaws shall include all forms of intercollegiate athletics competition engaged in by the designated rowing teams of member institutions of the IRA.

**NOTE:** Definition of Terms “Intercollegiate Rowing” and “Competition:” A student engages in intercollegiate competition within the meaning of the term adopted by the Association for eligibility purposes when competing in any contest, scrimmage, regularly scheduled, exhibition or postseason game on any IRA designated rowing team authorized by the student’s collegiate institution to represent it in intercollegiate athletics competition against any team composed of students or individuals of any other collegiate institution or organization.

## **Article Three**

### **PRINCIPLES FOR THE CONDUCT OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ROWING**

#### **Section I. Rules of Eligibility**

Duly promulgated NCAA rules and official interpretations pertaining to the principles of amateurism and student participation, institutional control and responsibility, sound academic standards, financial aid, recruiting, ethical conduct, competition in postseason and non-collegiate-sponsored contests, playing and practice seasons, and eligibility of individual student-athletes for participation in the intercollegiate athletics programs of member institutions, as contained in the NCAA Constitution and Bylaws, are incorporated herein by reference and shall be in effect as the rules of the IRA unless otherwise noted in this Article or in the Intercollegiate Rowing Association Eligibility Regulations.

#### **Section II. Principles Governing Competition in IRA Postseason Contests**

The principles governing competition in IRA postseason contests shall be the same as those adopted by the National Collegiate Athletic Association and shall govern the eligibility of student-athletes who represent IRA member colleges in intercollegiate rowing competition, except to the extent that such rules are modified by regulations adopted by vote of the Association members, set forth:

- A. Competition by member institutions in IRA National Championships shall conform to the provisions of the Constitution of the Association and to the rules or regulations prescribed by these Bylaws.
- B. The Board of Stewards shall administer the IRA National Championships under such conditions and regulations as it deems appropriate.
- C. The IRA National Championships, as established by the Board of Stewards, shall be under the control, direction and supervision of the IRA regatta committee appointed by the President for that purpose.
- D. All active member institutions in good standing shall be eligible for the IRA National Championships established under the auspices of the Board of Stewards, provided, however, that the Board may limit participation in regatta based upon qualifying races or standards.
- E. Participation in the IRA National Championships shall not preclude other postseason competition by member institutions provided such other postseason competition is not in violation of any provision of the Constitution, or any rule or regulation prescribed by the Bylaws of the Association.

### **Section III. Authority for Establishment and Implementation of Association Assessment**

- A. Assessment policies adopted by the Board of Stewards shall be implemented by the Board in the form of Executive Regulations which shall be published to the membership.

### **Section IV. Authority and Procedure Governing Official Interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws**

- A. **AUTHORITY TO ISSUE OFFICIAL INTERPRETATIONS**  
The following officials and bodies of the IRA shall have the sole authority to issue official interpretations of the Constitution and Bylaws subject to the provisions and procedures hereinafter set forth in paragraph B of this Section IV:
  - 1. The Board of Stewards;
  - 2. The Eligibility and Infractions Committee; and
  - 3. Any one of these IRA officials: President, IRA Commissioner, associate or assistant IRA Commissioner
- B. **PROCEDURES AND LIMITATIONS GOVERNING OFFICIAL INTERPRETATIONS**

1. Board of Stewards
  - a. The Board of Stewards shall have the authority to issue official interpretations on all matters relating to the Constitution and Bylaws except matters relating to the eligibility of individual student-athletes as set forth in Section I of Article Three of the Bylaws.
  - b. Official interpretations by the Board of Stewards must be passed by a majority of those Board members voting, provided those present constitute more than half of the Board membership.
  - c. Official interpretations issued by the Board of Stewards in accordance with the provisions of subparagraphs a and b of this paragraph 1 shall be binding on the membership of the Conference as of the time of their publication. There shall be no appeal from such interpretations.
  
2. Eligibility and Infractions Committee
  - a. The Eligibility and Infractions Committee shall have the authority to issue official interpretations on all matters relating to the eligibility of individual student-athletes as set forth in Section I of Article Three of the Bylaws.
  - b. Official interpretations issued by the Eligibility and Infractions Committee must be passed by a majority of those committee members voting, provided those present constitute more than half of the committee membership.
  - c. Official interpretations issued by the Eligibility and Infractions Committee in accordance with the provisions of subparagraphs a. and b. of this paragraph 2 shall be binding on the membership of the Association as of the time of their publication. There shall be no appeal from such interpretations.

**Note:** Official interpretations by the Board of Stewards and Eligibility and Infractions Committee, not covered by the provisions of subparagraph (a) of this paragraph 2, may be challenged but only by motions or amendments properly made or proposed according to the procedures set forth in the Constitution at a meeting of the entire membership.
  - d. The Eligibility and Infractions Committee shall have the discretionary power to grant exceptions to any and all rules as delineated in Section I of Article Three of these Bylaws having to do with the eligibility of individual student-athletes for participation in IRA designated intercollegiate rowing programs of member institutions. The committee's authority is subject to limitations imposed under IRA Regulations.

### 3. IRA Officers

- a. Either the president, the IRA Commissioner, an associate or assistant IRA commissioner, may, in the interim period between Board of Stewards or Eligibility and Infractions Committee meetings, issue official interpretations on the Board's or committee's behalf on any matter relating to the Constitution or Bylaws.
- b. Official interpretations made by the president, IRA Commissioner, associate or assistant IRA Commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph a of this paragraph 3, shall be binding on the member or members as of the time they are communicated in writing to the member or members.
- c. Official interpretations made by the president, IRA Commissioner, associate or assistant IRA Commissioner under subparagraphs a and b of this paragraph 3 may be appealed to the Eligibility and Infractions Committee in matters relating to the eligibility of individual student-athletes and to the Board of Stewards in all other matters. It being understood, however, that said interpretations are binding unless and until changed by the Eligibility and Infractions Committee or the Board of Stewards.

## **Section V. Annual Declaration of Adherence**

### A. CONTENTS AND FILING

The president of each member institution shall file, annually, with the office of the IRA Commissioner an "IRA Declaration of Principles," indicating those teams authorized to represent it in intercollegiate rowing competition as defined in Article Two of these Bylaws. This declaration extends to IRA-sponsored postseason championships competition and confirms the member institution's continuing support of, and adherence to, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association in such competition.

### B. RIGHT OF INSPECTION

These "IRA Declarations of Principles" shall be kept in files at the office of the IRA Commissioner and shall be available for inspection by authorized representatives of any of the Association's member institutions.

### C. RESPONSIBILITY TO INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

It is the obligation of each member institution to provide necessary and adequate means to ensure that the members of its athletics staff and all the students on its athletics squads in those sports designated on the IRA declaration form are aware of their obligation as representatives of an IRA member institution to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the IRA.

**Section VI. Amendments**

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be received by the IRA Commissioner per a schedule adopted by the Association for the ensuing academic year. Provided there is a quorum, adoption requires a majority vote of those voting members in attendance. If no schedule is adopted by the Association, the previous year's schedule shall be followed. Amendments shall become effective when adopted by a majority vote of those voting at the meeting, provided those present constitute more than half of the membership. (Revised June 1, 2012)

**Article Four  
DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS ON DISSOLUTION**

On dissolution of the IRA, the Board of Stewards shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Association, dispose of all the assets of the Association by distributing those assets exclusively for charitable purposes. Such organization(s) shall operate exclusively for charitable purposes, as the Board of Stewards shall determine, as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and as other than a private foundation under Section 509 of the Internal Revenue Code.